

Appln No. 09/693514
Amdt. Dated: August 21, 2006
Response to Office Action of July 27, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Office Action dated July 27, 2006.

Amendments

The subject-matter of claims 4 and 6 together has been combined with claim 1.

Claims 19 and 37 have been amended to specify that the association data is created using the identity information transmitted to the computer system.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

The Applicant contests the Examiner's assertion that the present invention is obvious from the combined disclosures of Tabata and Dymetman.

At column 20, line 51 *et seq* of Tabata, there is disclosed a system by which image data (e.g. barcode data) is read from a page, correlated information is retrieved from a computer system, and the retrieved information is printed onto the page. This basic operation of Tabata's system is clearly described at column 20, lines 51-62.

Tabata's system relies on information being correlated with the barcode *before* any printing is performed. Otherwise, there would be no correlated information to retrieve and print.

Logically then, Tabata's scanner must scan the document before any printing is performed, because Tabata determines what is to be printed by scanning the document and retrieving correlated information. Figure 20 of Tabata clearly shows that the scanner devices 430 and 470A must be positioned before the printer units 460 or 470B.

By contrast, in the present invention, the document information is not correlated with the identity data prior to printing the document information. The association with the identity data is made only after the identity data is scanned and transmitted to a computer system.

Thus, in the Applicant's system, the sensor may sense the identity data at any time and claim 1 now specifies that sensor is positioned to sense the identity data either during or after the

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document is printed. For Tabata, such an arrangement would be impossible, and in the Applicant's submission claim 1 is now clearly distinguished from Tabata.

Furthermore, claims 19 and 37 specify that the computer system associates the identity information with the document information upon receipt of data transmitted from the printer to the computer system. In Tabata, this association was made before any printing or scanning was performed, whereas in the present invention, the association has to be made after the scanning is performed.

In view of these differences, it is submitted that the present invention as now claimed is not obvious in view of Tabata or Dymetman. Neither of these documents teaches or suggests a system falling within the scope of the present claims.

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It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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